

## Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01

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FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6108

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DUBLIN 1509

LONDON POUCH BELFAST

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PBOR EI

SUBJ: NORTHERN IRELAND

1. DURING CONVERSATION TODAY WITH DCM, FONOFF ASST SEC FOR ANGLO-IRISH AFFAIRS SEAN DONLON SAID THAT ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE MADE SHORTLY THAT PRIME MINISTER COSGRAVE WILL BE MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER WILSON, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1 IN LONDON TO REVIEW NORTHERN IRELAND SITUATION. DONLON SAID THAT GOI HAD SOUGHT THE MEETING BECAUSE OF WHAT IT PERCEIVED AS A "CHANGING AND DETERIORATING" SITUATION IN THE NORTH SINCE THE PREVIOUS MEETING SIX WEEKS AGO. TWO FACTS ARE OF SPECIFIC CONCERN TO GOI: (1) THE RECENT ELECTIONS SHOWED THE FAILURE OF THE MIDDLE GROUND AND THE FAILURE OF A WORKING-CLASS PROTESTANT PARTY TO EMERGE, THUS FURTHER POLARIZING THE NORTHERN IRELAND ELECTORATE; (2) THE DETERIORATING SECURITY SITUATION IN THE NORTH, CULMINATING IN THE RECENT PRISON BURNINGS AND DEMONSTRATIONS IN THE CITIES.

2. DONLON ADDED THAT THE HEATH-COSGRAVE MEETING WOULD PROBABLY BE CLOAKED WITH A PUBLIC APPEARANCE OF BEING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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A "GENERAL REVIEW OF IRISH-BRITISH-EUROPEAN PROBLEMS

WITH SOME DISCUSSION OF NORTHERN IRELAND," BUT IN FACT THE ONLY SUBJECT NOW ON THE AGENDA IS THE NORTH. THE GOI FEELS THAT TO BILL THE MEETING AS ON THE NORTH ONLY WOULD EXACERBATE FEARS AMONG THE PROTESTANTS IN THE NORTH.

3. COMMENT: THE IRISH GOVERNMENT IS MORE CONCERNED ABOUT THE SECURITY SITUATION THAN IT HAS BEEN IN THE RECENT PAST. THE GOI ALSO IS EVEN MORE WORRIED ABOUT THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION THAN IT WAS BEFORE THE LAST ELECTIONS. THE IRISH FEAR THAT THE COLLAPSE OF THE "MIDDLE GROUND" MEANS THAT THE RESULTS OF A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION ARE A FOREGONE CONCLUSION.  
MOORE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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